

Windom Community Council (WCC)

Nature Friendly Windom

Low-Cost Rain Gardens and Bioswales Program Guidelines

If you have not had chance to inform yourself, prior to completing an application, on what it means to undertake designing and building your own green garden project, we strongly advise you to review the following videos:

- Rain Gardens Explained in 2 Minutes: <https://youtu.be/3frkqNjScpk>
- Park Info. What is a Bioswale? <https://youtu.be/qG8kVVwxTqs>
- Rain Garden Maintenance – ALL Parts: <https://youtu.be/2xuqmY7wzRc>

Prior to starting your application, you may direct any questions to Becky McIntosh at windomcommunity@gmail.com, or call us and leave a message at our Google line at (856) 494-6366. Please allow 1-2 days for a response. All questions will be posted on our project's webpage <https://www.windommpls.org/nature-friendly-windom> page in the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section.

Purpose

Two of the highest rated priorities that came out of our Windom neighborhood survey were preservation and advancement of energy/environment and greenspaces. The Windom Community Council (WCC) is sponsoring a new initiative in 2021 that focuses on a proactive neighborhood approach to environmental sustainability and managing water runoff. WCC is partnering with Metro Blooms to support low-cost projects for both owner occupied and rental properties in Windom.

WCC is using rain gardens/boulevard bioswales, which are environmentally sustainable, to help manage Windom water runoff especially since our neighborhood is within the Minnehaha Creek Watershed district. Program goals are to have beautiful and functional landscaping features that: capture rainwater before it runs over roads, dumping pollution, sediment and debris into our creek, lakes, and river; increase pollinator plants to provide year-round food and habitat for pollinators; and support neighborhood equity, beautification, and community values.

The goal of this project is to install 23 rain gardens or boulevard bioswales in the Windom neighborhood by the end of September 2021. Funding is limited and must be used this year.

In addition to the rain gardens or boulevard bioswales, WCC will also help support 24 one hour onsite technical consultations for any resident interested in exploring non-rain garden or non-bioswale green options including but not limited to the following types of alternate gardens:

- pollinators
- native plants
- turf alternatives

Eligibility

Residents must own a home or rent in the Windom neighborhood to qualify. For this project, businesses do not qualify. Residents who live in a rental property must have written approval from the property owner or management company prior to applying.

Through this program, residents will be permitted one rain garden or one boulevard bioswale. Those who choose an alternate garden will get their a one-hour consultation paid for, but all fees and costs associated with implementation of their garden will be the responsibility of the resident.

Fees

This project is designed to be low-cost and affordable. To participate in a Nature Friendly program, residents will be required to pay **\$150** total towards the design and build costs of their **Rain Garden or Bioswale Garden Project**, or **\$25** for a one-hour technical consultation fee foran **Alternative/Pollinator Garden Project**. The fee is paid up front to WCC prior to the site consultation. Grants are available on a limited basis for residents with low-income for both sets of fees.

WCC will contract with Metro Blooms and will cover the bulk of costs for project logistical coordination including the bulk of the following fees:

- site consultation
- garden designs
- plants & mulch
- rain garden installation
- lawn signage
- soil disposal

The estimated total value for one rain garden or one bioswale ranges from \$1000-\$2000 of cost savings to Windom residents.

Refund Conditions

If you decide not to pursue the project within 30 days of paying the fees and before any services are provided by Metro Blooms, you may receive a refund. If you decide not to pursue the project past the 30 days of paying the fees and before any services are provided, you will instead receive a letter indicating that you have made a tax-deductible contribution to WCC.

Note: Boulevard bioswale gardens cannot be created in a boulevard area that is under the canopy of a tree due to the potential for damage to the root system of the tree.

Rain Garden and Bioswale Process [for residents/program participants]

Up to 23 properties in the neighborhood will be able to participate in the rain garden and boulevard bioswale program. Both homeowners and renters are encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted on a first come first served basis until the funds are expended.

Residents are responsible for:

- Pick-up from a central location and installation of selected plants that are part of the agreed upon rain garden/bioswale design.
- Maintaining their own rain garden/bioswale over the long-term. (Rain gardens/bioswales can take up to three years from inception to full garden maturity.)

Step 1: Apply for a Slot.

- Apply online here at <https://forms.gle/fDqzZA5TvNhy7aPc9> or print and complete an application at <https://www.windommpls.org/nature-friendly-windom>. WCC will confirm if we have an open slot for you or if you will be on the wait list.
 - If you responded to our Windom Neighborhood Plan Modification Feedback Survey last month and showed interest in either a rain garden or bioswale, your name will automatically entered into our sign-up slot list, however, you must complete an application and pay your \$150 fee in order to proceed in the application acceptance process..
- WCC will notify you by email or phone if you have been selected for a rain garden/bioswale.

Step 2: Schedule Site Consultation.

- Metro Blooms Design + Build will schedule and conduct onsite consultations with participants in the neighborhood. At the consultation, the designer will collaborate with the participant to identify the best suited location for a raingarden/bioswale, native plant preference, runoff conveyance, and additional resilient landscaping practices.
- These consultations last about 1 hour. We require 48 hours' notice by phone or email to Metro Blooms to reschedule or cancel your appointment.

Step 3: Co-Design and Plant Your New Garden.

- Metro Blooms Design + Build's designer will develop a planting plan for each garden (150 sq. ft. maximum) which will include your rain garden basin or bioswale design, and a planting template for your new raingarden or bioswale.
- Metro Blooms Design + Build staff will procure all plants and mulch for each raingarden/bioswale according to designs. Mulch will be delivered to each residence and disbursed throughout your new rain

- garden/bioswale. Plants will be delivered to a central location in Windom for pick up by residents.
- Participants will install their plants according to their design and can notify Metro Blooms staff if planting is not accessible to them. Metro Blooms will then coordinate another method of planting.
- Metro Blooms Design + Build will oversee Conservation Corps excavation of new raingardens and participants have the option to keep or dispose of excess soil.
- Crews will excavate raingardens, mix in compost, apply mulch, and haul away sod/soil (where applicable).
- Finally, Metro Blooms will provide a 'I am a Raingarden' sign to each participant.

Note: Since these plants will go in during the hottest time of the summer, it is very important that you WATER the new plantings for the rest of the summer. This will ensure that they come back strong next spring. Metro Blooms Design + Build will also be supplying you with maintenance information and a copy of your design and planting template so that you can identify, take care of, and enjoy your raingardens and bioswales. Metro Blooms Design + Build does not warranty plants since they cannot ensure that they survive.

Alternate Garden Process [for residents/program participants]

Up to 24 properties in the neighborhood will be able to participate in the alternate garden technical consultation program. Both homeowners and renters are encouraged to apply. Applications for the technical consultations will be accepted on a first come first served basis until the funds are expended.

Alternate gardens include and may not be limited to the following gardens:

- pollinator
- native plant
- turf alternatives

Step 1: Apply.

- Apply online here <https://forms.gle/fDqzZA5TvNhy7aPc9> or print and complete an application at <https://www.windommpls.org/nature-friendly-windom>. WCC will confirm if we have an open slot for you or if you will be on the wait list.
 - If you responded to our Windom neighborhood Plan Modification Feedback survey last month, and showed interest either a rain garden or bioswale, your name will automatically be entered into our sign-up slot list, however, you must complete an application and pay your \$25 fee to proceed in the acceptance process.
- WCC will notify you by email or phone if you have been selected for an onsite consultation.

Step 2: Set-Up Consultation.

- Metro Blooms will contact you to set-up a consultation at your property. They will talk to you about the best place for a raingarden or boulevard bioswale and may be able to answer other questions that you have about your yard/boulevard, such as drainage issues, maintenance and creating additional pollinator habitat. These consultations last about 1 hour. We require 48 hours' notice by phone or email to WCC or Metro Blooms to reschedule or cancel your appointment.

Step 3: Build Your New Garden.

- Building your new garden will depend on your own time and resources, or any agreement and arrangements that you make directly with Metro Blooms or another company with whom you choose to work.

Windom Community Council (WCC)
Nature Friendly Windom
Low-Cost Rain Gardens and Bioswales Project APPLICATION

2021 Rain Garden / Bioswale Application Form for Residents

(COMPLETION OF ALL QUESTIONS IS REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED)

Email _____

Property address _____

Name _____

Telephone _____

Own or Renter (please circle one)

- For rental property, name of property owner: _____
- Email and phone of property owner: _____

Which Nature Friendly Windom Project are you interested in (please CHECK one):

- ☐ Rain Garden
- ☐ Bioswale
- ☐ Alternate Garden Consultation

Why are you interested in this Project?

What is your plan to care for your new garden?

Additional income-based grant qualifications. Is your adjusted gross income under \$31,000 annually with 5 or less members in the household? Yes or No (please circle one)

Send completed form to:
Windom Community Council
P.O. Box 19563
Minneapolis MN 55419
Or email to: windomcommunity@gmail.com

THANK YOU! Please go to <https://www.windommpls.org/nature-friendly-windom> to learn the step-by-step selection and implementation process that follows this application.

Updated 6/20/2021